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DRUG ABUSE AND DRUG TRAFFICKING IN NEW ENGLAND

A REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL

NINETY-NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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(99th Congress)

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INTRODUCTION

On Friday, September 20, and Saturday, September 21, 1985, the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control held hearings in Boston, Massachusetts, on drug abuse and drug trafficking in New England. At these hearings, Federal, State, local officials and private citizens who are involved in narcotics law enforcement or drug abuse prevention, education, treatment, and rehabilitation activities stated repeatedly that drug abuse is a serious problem in New England. In particular, cocaine use is escalating rapidly.

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FOREWORD

The following is a report on the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control's hearings conducted at the Federal Reserve Bank Building, Boston, Massachusetts, on September 20 and 21, 1985. The Committee conducted these hearings at the request of Congressman Joe Moakley (D–MA), who had received reports of widespread narcotics abuse, both in Boston and throughout New England.

Participating in these hearings were Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker, United States House of Representatives; Senator John F. Kerry (D–MA); Charles B. Rangel, Chairman, House Select Committee on Narcotics; Benjamin A. Gilman, Ranking Minority Member Select Committee on Narcotics; Congressmen John G. Rowland (R–CT); Joe Moakley (D–MA); and Chester G. Atkins (D–MA).

Accompanying the Select Committee were John T. Cusack, Chief of Staff; Elliott A. Brown, Minority Staff Director; George R. Gilbert, Counsel; Ron LeGrand, Counsel; Michael J. Kelley, Counsel; and Joe Connolly, Sophie Hayford, Roger Kineavy, Fred Clarke, Jim McGovern, and Mollye Hurley of Congressman Moakley's staff.

Executive Summary

The assessment of the Drug Enforcement Administration is that in New England we are winning the war against marijuana, holding our own against heroin, and that cocaine use is escalating rapidly. Most Federal, State, and local narcotics law enforcement officials voiced satisfaction with existing cooperative mechanisms. More money must be spent for prosecutors, judges, and jails to effectively curtail narcotics traffickers. Law enforcement alone, however, is not enough, we must also limit the demand for drugs. The unfortunate reality is that American school children are consuming a lot of drugs.

State and local governments must receive more Federal resources before they can significantly curtail drug abuse. While the degree of Federal-State cooperation may be outstanding, it is on too small a scale to impact on the problem. The geography of New England with its long, rugged coastline, which is ideally suited for narcotics smuggling, greatly complicates narcotics law enforcement in New England.

The asset forfeiture provisions of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act and financial investigations conducted by the Internal Revenue Service are two of the most effective weapons employed by Federal and State Governments against narcotics traffickers. However, to curtail drug abuse there must be more involvement by the U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Coast Guard and the IRS.

Central Falls, Rhode Island, is a major cocaine distribution center both within the United States and in Canada. Many crimes are committed to finance the purchase of cocaine and other drugs. In fact, cocaine is now the recreational drug of choice for many people.

More and more narcotics law enforcement officials are advocating comprehensive drug abuse education programs as the best means of achieving long-term reductions in drug abuse. While the degree of parental involvement in drug abuse education programs has increased, many parents still refuse to become involved. Some students don't view their own drug abuse as a problem, and many school counsellors cannot recognize the signs of substance abuse in students.

Current funding levels for drug and alcohol treatment services are inadequate and need to be increased. The Federal Government has been driving drug abuse treatment programs out of business, with the result that in some areas of New England there are waiting lests to receive treatment.

Boston Hearing—Recommendations

1. Even accepting DEA's assessment that we are winning the war against marijuana, holding our own against heroin, and that co-

caine use is escalating rapidly, this is still not good enough, when $120 billion annually, are expended on drug abuse with another $100 billion tacked on in associated costs including drug enforcement, prevention and treatment costs and lost productivity.

2. The Committee was pleased to learn of the high degree of cooperation and professionalism that exists among Federal narcotics law enforcement officials and their State and local counterparts. The Committee commends this spirit of dedication, but urges that supervisors and street level narcotics agents strive to maintain this through formal narcotics law enforcement conferences, and just as importantly, daily informal working contacts.

3. It is the position of the Select Committee on Narcotics that drug abuse treatment works and is cost-effective, however, drug abuse treatment programs cost money. The Committee urges that the White House Drug Abuse Policy Office, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and other Federal agencies concerned about drug abuse treatment, examine the amount of Federal dollars allocated to drug abuse treatment programs with a view toward increasing their level of support. An expense of a few hundred dollars more per individual may prevent a person from turning to a life of drug abuse, and thus save thousands of dollars down the road. Similarly, the Governors of all fifty States should review their drug abuse budget, with knowledgeable State substance abuse officials to determine whether they are adequate to provide treatment to people in need. Governors may be faced with some difficult choices in setting budgetary priorities, and in some States a general tax increase may be necesssary to adequately fund drug abuse treatment programs.

4. The Committee wishes to stress the importance of self-help measures by drug abusers. While society must take steps to help them, it is also incumbent upon drug users to make the fundamental, even the life-saving decision, not to continue to use drugs. No amount of additonal money will be effective in curtailing drug abuse, until individual users make their own decision to end their wasteful and life threatening use of drugs.

5. The Congress of the United States should mandate that as a condition of continuing to receive Federal education funds, all States by the 1990–1991 school year have in place a required program of drug abuse education. The Federal Government should provide funding to help insure that teachers are adequately trained in substance abuse prevention education, but should not dictate to the States and local communities course content. State Commissioners or Secretaries of Education in consultation with other professional educators and substance abuse professionals should decide the optimum number of hours per semester which should be devoted to substance abuse education, and the grade-levels to receive such instruction. Parents must lend their active support to substance abuse education efforts or else such programs are doomed to failure. Parents and adults without children should take it upon themselves to educate themselves about the physical and psychological consequences of drug use before they are confronted with a crisis.

6. A logical vehicle for strengthening narcotics law enforcement efforts and drug abuse prevention, education, and treatment efforts

is enactment of H.R. 526, the "State and Local Narcotics Control Assistance Act of 1985," or similar legislation. H.R. 526, which is sponsored by Chairman Charles B. Rangel (D–NY), Chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, would provide a total of $750 million annually for narcotics law enforcement and drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation activities. Specifically $125 million annually for five years would be spent in the form of grants from the Attorney General to the States, on—

providing additional personnel, equipment, facilities, training, and supplies to State and local narcotics enforcement units for more widespread apprehension of drug criminals;

providing similar support to increase the prosecution of narcotics cases in State courts;

providing additional support to State courts to increase the number of narcotics cases that can be adjudicated and reduce delays that often leave drug peddlers free to ply their trade pending trial;

increasing the capacity of State correctional facilities to hold convicted drug felons and providing support to establish and improve drug treatment and rehabilitation services to drug dependent State offenders; and

providing increased support for States to eradicate illicit drug cultivation.

H.R. 526 also authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide $125 million annually for the same 5-year period to States to increase the availability of drug abuse prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programs.

This bill was drafted after careful study by Chairman Rangel and draws upon his three years of experience as Chairman of the Select Committee. In hearings conducted across America over the last three years witness after witness involved in either narcotics law enforcement or drug abuse prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation has pleaded for more resources so that they would have a realistic change of curtailing the scourge of drug abuse within their communities. A national problem such as drug abuse is comprised of a multitude of local problems, and these local problems must be eradicated one by one before the problem of drug abuse will be controlled in America.

7. Drug abuse is not confined to America's school children it affects adults and detracts seriously from American productivity. Just as Americans have undergone a fundamental change in their attitude towards smoking and drinking and driving, the same type of grassroots support is needed to curtail substance abuse, including alcohol, in America. Adequately funded, staffed, and publicized employee assistance programs, can make a signficant contribution toward this objective, and the Select Committee encourages their development and use.

8. It is essential that publications on drug abuse contain accurate, current information. The Select Committee recognizes and commends the significant accomplishments of the National Institute on Drug Abuse in advancing knowledge on substance abuse. The Committee, however, wishes to stress the importance that publications by NIDA, other Federal agencies, State and local govern-

ments and private organizations be reviewed periodically and updated.

9. Drug abuse is an illness and can have effects as serious or more serious on the victim, as the physical illnesses to which in many cases it leads. It is essential that health care insurers review their policies on reimbursement for substance abuse treatment services, and make them comparable to coverages allowed for treatment of other physical illness. Physicians and substance abuse counsellors are trained to heal, but they must have the assurance that they will be compensated for the services they provide. While not meaning to commend substance abusers for their behaviors, they too must know that society cares about them, and is willing to help them reestablish themselves.

10. The Commandant of the Coast Guard, should submit to the Congress within six months a special report on what equipment and manpower it would take to adequately equip the Coast Guard so that it can adequately and effectively carry out its drug interdiction responsibilities. Such a report should be submitted to the House Committees on Public Works and Transportation, Merchant Marine and Fisheries, and Appropriations, and to the Senate Committees on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and Appropriations. This report should review the needs of the Coast Guard nationwide, not just in New England. While being mindful of budgetary considerations, the Congress should review the Commandant's recommendations, and appropriate sufficient additional resources to adequately equip the Coast Guard to accomplish its drug interdiction mission. The appropriate Congressional committees should conduct a similar assessment of the narcotics equipment and personnel needs of the U.S. Customs Services, Internal Revenue Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Committee wishes particularly to commend the Internal Revenue Service for their outstanding work on narcotics-related financial investigations. The Committee is aware that the Internal Revenue Service has suffered a cut of approximately 100 narcotics criminal investigators, and urges the Congress to restore these personnel and augment them if possible.

11. The Committee was intrigued to learn of the link between the stealing of computers, computer parts, and narcotics. This issue merits further attention by the Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

12. The Committee also urges the DEA and FBI to continue to learn more about attempts by organized crime families in New England and throughout the rest of the country to control the distribution of narcotics. Attempts to trace the proceeds of drug transactions must be maintained and intensified within the limits of available resources.

13. The cocaine distribution center at Central Falls, Rhode Island is unique and demands special attention by Federal, State, and local authorities.

14. The DEA and FBI should intensify their efforts to recruit Spanish-speaking agents for the purpose of conducting wiretaps on suspected narcotics traffickers.

15. The U.S. Department of Justice should conduct a nationwide review of the number of Federal judges, prosecutors, and criminal

investigators to be sure that they are adequate to handle the heavy workload associated with narcotics cases.

16. Specialized narcotics conferences for prosecutors and police officials should be held more frequently so that these officials can keep current with the latest information available and share investigative techniques.

Boston Hearings

On Friday, September 20, and Saturday, September 21, 1985, the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control held hearings in Boston, Massachusetts, on drug abuse and drug trafficking in the New England region. The Select Committee went to Boston at the request of Congressman Joseph Moakley (D–MA) who participated in the hearing and who had received reports of widespread drug trafficking and abuse in Massachusetts, and throughout the six New England States. The Committee was honored that Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker, United States House of Representatives was able to participate in these hearings. Other Congressmen present for the hearings were Charles B. Rangel, Chairman, Select Committee on Narcotics, Benjamin A. Gilman, Ranking Minority Member, Select Committee on Narcotics, Chester G. Atkins (D–MA); John G. Rowland (R–CT); and U.S. Senator John F. Kerry (D–MA).

These hearings confirmed what the Select Committee already believed to be the case, namely, that drug abuse is a serious problem in New England. In particular, cocaine use is escalating rapidly.

Some points made by Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis were:

In Massachusetts, we have developed a tough attack on both the demand and supply of drugs.

In 1983, a Statewide Task Force was formed to wage a tough coordinated attack on drugs. This has resulted in 1,300 arrests and $75 million of illicit drugs recovered.

Law enforcement alone is not enough, we must also limit the demand for drugs. The unfortunate reality is that our kids are using a lot of drugs.

The formation of the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs has made public awareness and public involvement far higher than it was a year ago.

A presumptive sentencing bill for drug offenders should be enacted.

A program of drug education should be part of the curriculum of schools in Massachusetts, with particular emphasis on the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades.

While we have not solved the problem of drug abuse, we have made progress.

Most of the resources in the fight against drugs today are State resources.

Resources are always a problem. The State has a responsibility to put some resources into this effort.

We need additional resources for drug abuse treatment. The waiting list varies in each community.

We have had very good cooperation with the DEA and FBI, because of the national and international scope of drug traffic

we must all cooperate closely if we are to make progress on this issue.

We will do everything we can in Massachusetts, to combat drug abuse, but we can't do anything about the international supply. This is the responsibility of the Federal Government.

Some points made by Charles Barry, Secretary of Public Safety, State of Massachusetts, were:

One of the most significant developments has been to put the use of talented legal counsel at the disposal of Massachusetts law enforcement officers, so that cases aren't lost on a technicality.

The Massachusetts Attorney General and the Massachusetts District Attorneys work closely together on drug cases.

Some points made by Mr. Stephen E. Merrill, Attorney General, State of New Hampshire, were:

New Hampshire has an epidemic of drugs that is just beginning, and the drug of choice is cocaine.

The price of a kilo of cocaine had dropped $15,000 in the last 4 years from around $100,000 a kilo to $85,000.

Drug traffickers take drug money to New Hampshire to "cool it off."

There are only two DEA agents in all of New Hampshire, we could use more DEA agents in New Hampshire.

Federal, State, and local narcotics officials work cooperatively in New Hampshire.

Cocaine use is more prevalent in South New Hampshire, while marijuana usage is more common in Northern New Hampshire.

Some points made by Colonel Allan Weeks, Chief, Maine State Police, were:

We are finding more violence against drug dealers who have agreed to talk.

Because of passage of asset forfeiture legislation, drug traffickers have started to lease equipment.

The geography of Maine is conducive to drug smuggling.

We have been fighting drug use in Maine since 1977.

The Maine State Police work with DEA in a joint task force on narcotics cases in Maine.

A task force on drug diversion in Maine was formed in 1978, but because of lack of resources, it had to be discontinued.

Our cooperation with DEA has been excellent.

Drug smuggling in Maine is an interstate operation.

There are only 3 DEA agents in Maine, lack of resources is a problem.

We need Federal resources to help us. Federal cooperation is outstanding, it is just on too small a scale.

A tremendous amount of drugs is coming in along the Maine coastline, in part due to the success in South Florida.

Some points made by Mr. Charles Hachadorian, Jr., Drug Control Administrator, State of Rhode Island, were:

Fifteen of the top twenty drugs of choice are prescription drugs.

Rhode Island ranks 11th in per capita consumption of legal cocaine in America.

Rhode Island ranks 4th in per capita consumption of fentanyl.

Rhode Island follows the Federal lead in placing drugs under control, and does so almost immediately.

LSD is making a comeback in Rhode Island.

A bill which would have imposed heavy fines on drug traffickers in Rhode Island did not pass.

Rhode Island's drug abuse education program in grades K–12 needs assistance.

A Federal grant program for the States to make drug buys should be started. Twenty-five thousand to fifty thousand dollars more a year can make a tremendous difference in making drug buys.

Some points made by Boston Police Commissioner Francis Roache were:

The Boston Police Department receives 300–400 calls a month from citizens giving us information on drugs.

Cocaine use among people 20–30 years of age is socially acceptable, even young people are beginning to experiment with cocaine.

The heroin trade in Boston is fragmented.

Use of marijuana in Boston has stabilized.

We must take further steps to heighten public awareness of the dangers of drug abuse.

Recruits to the Boston Police Department who test positive for drugs will be dismissed.

The intelligence gathering capabilities of the Boston Police Department have been improved since I became Commissioner.

I have had complete on-going cooperation with Federal and State narcotics law enforcement agencies.

Neighborhood organizations can help curtail drug abuse as well as laws imposing stiff penalties against drug traffickers.

Some points made by Thomas Leahy, Police Chief, Worcester, Massachusetts, were:

Worcester has been infected by heroin, marijuana use has remained constant, and there has been a 150% increase in arrests and confiscation of cocaine in Worcester in the past year.

Fifty to seventy percent of property crimes in Worcester are drug-related.

The Worcester police force is suffering from a severe manpower shortage, it has been cut by 200 people.

Federal law enforcement efforts must complement and not duplicate local efforts.

A total commitment of all law enforcement agencies toward reducing drug abuse is necessary.

Drug law violators must face sure, swift punishment.

Some points made by Lieutenant Rudy Leganza, Detective, Central Falls, Rhode Island, Police Department, were:

Drug traffickers in Central Falls keep a low profile.

The Central Falls Police Department now has an open budget for making drug purchases.

The Central Falls Police Department averages two—three drug arrests a week.

We felt that since we could buy a lot of cocaine at a low price, we had a lot of cocaine in our area.

The Central Falls Police Department uses DEA money to make drug buys.

The vast majority of Colombians residing in Central Falls are hard-working, law-abiding citizens.

Most of the drug traffickers in Central Falls come from Medellin, Colombia.

Some points made by Mr. William Weld, U.S. Attorney, District of Massachusetts, were:

Cocaine is currently the most serious problem we face in New England.

Against heroin we are holding our own.

Against marijuana we are making good success.

The visits of former Attorney General William French Smith to drug-producing nations was a good idea.

Illicit drug laboratories are a major problem in Eastern Massachusetts.

Prescription drug abuse is a problem.

Drug education is critical, we must convince young urban professionals that cocaine is a one-way street to a lousy life.

Of the more than two hundred defendants indicted in New England in 53 OCDETF cases, we believe all or virtually all were part of a significant trafficking organization.

Some points made by Mr. Allan Nevas, U.S. Attorney, District of Connecticut, were:

I have a serious lack of prosecutors and agents. Three of my nineteen prosecutors work on OCDETF cases.

The Hells Angels' cocaine trafficking case tied up two of my prosecutors for a year, this gives me second thoughts about starting another major drug case.

As part of an overall narcotics law enforcement policy more drug users should be prosecuted.

IRS financial investigations in narcotics cases have been very effective

The Department of Justice is aware that U.S. Attorneys need additional prosecutors.

I prosecuted 15 students of the exclusive Choate school as part of a cocaine distribution ring.

Cocaine use is a problem everywhere. It is widely available.

A national drug abuse education program is necessary, if we are going to reduce drug abuse in America.

Some points made by Mr. Richard Cohen, U.S. Attorney, District of Maine, were:

While there are always resource problems, based on my 22 years experience, I have never seen more professionalism by local law enforcement agencies.

A joint approach emphasizing both drug education and law enforcement is necessary to curb drug abuse.

Preventive detention and asset forfeiture provisions of the crime bill have been very helpful.

Drug trafficking is a serious problem in Maine.

My office has received very good help from the U.S. Coast Guard.

One mitigating aspect of the drug situation in Maine is that most of the drugs in Maine are bound for other areas.

Three murders in Maine in the last year were linked to drug trafficking organizations.

Stiff sentences help deter drug smugglers.

This is the first Department of Justice to develop a national strategy of law enforcement cooperation.

Some points made by Mr. Lincoln C. Almond, U.S. Attorney, District of Rhode Island, were:

The biggest need in narcotics cases, is for information, information makes cases.

It is going to take some time to turn the situation around in Central Falls, Rhode Island.

There have been twenty-five convictions of major drug dealers in Central Falls, Rhode Island.

Some points made by Mr. Paul Brown, Assistant Special Agent-In-Charge, Boston Field Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, were:

The heroin situation in the Northeast is stable, and the number of heroin overdose deaths has declined.

Local heroin distribution is controlled by Blacks, Hispanics, and Lebanese nationals.

The Boston Heroin Task Force consisting of personnel of the Massachusetts State Police, the Boston Police Department, and DEA was recently formed to curtail heroin abuse within Boston.

We have seen some dramatic successes against marijuana.

The geography of New England is particularly well-suited for the smuggling of marijuana.

Three of six marijuana trafficking organizations operating in New England have been immobilized.

The availability and trafficking of cocaine in the Northeast has greatly increased.

The cocaine problem in Central Falls, Rhode Island, is serious, but not insurmountable.

In the "no dope" conspiracy case, Peter Krutschewski was convicted of conspiracy to import approximately 90,000 pounds of marijuana and approximately 6,000 pounds of hashish into the U.S., even though there was no actual drug seizures and/or exhibits by DEA.

Some points made by Mr. James Greenleaf, Special Agent-In-Charge, Boston Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, were:

The vast majority of FBI work in New England relates to Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Forty-five FBI agents from the Boston Field Office work on Organized Crime Drug Enforcement cases.

The Boston Field Office of the FBI has 69 separate narcotics investigations pending of which 14 are OCDE cases.

Half of these cases are being worked jointly with other agencies.

Cooperation among law enforcement agencies in New England is outstanding.

In New England, FBI narcotics investigations are targeted on La Cosa Nostra, Colombian cartels, tracing of "narco-dol-

lars" and corruption of public officials in connection with drug trafficking activities.

Some points made by Mr. Bruce Milburn, Assistant Regional Commissioner, Criminal Investigation, North Atlantic Region, IRS, were:

We currently have 134 field special agents on rolls throughout New England who spend 25% of their direct investigative time conducting narcotics investigations.

Over the past 18 months we have increased our direct investigative time devoted to narcotics by 10%.

We conduct nearly all of our narcotics investigations with other agencies at the local, State and/or Federal level.

Some points made by Mr. Donald Donuhue, Assistant Regional Commissioner (Enforcement), Northeast Region, U.S. Customs Service, were:

The Customs Service concentrates on drug interdiction and drug-related financial investigations.

The intelligence capabilities of the U.S. Customs Service has recently doubled and will double again this year.

In concert with the Coast Guard and other agencies, the total value of drugs seized is in excess of one hundred million dollars.

We have just established a new Tactical Interdiction Group, comprised of Special Agents and Investigators, who will be dedicated to narcotics interdiction in the Southern Massachusetts and Rhode Island area.

The seizure statistics for the northern land border for FY 1985, to date are 1,685 narcotics seizures, and 100 unreported currency violations with $2,489,000 seized.

Some points made by Commodore Robert Johanson, Commander, First Coast Guard District, were:

New England's 6,100 miles of rugged coastline dotted with remote harbors, its large population, and its existing criminal infrastructure for coordination and distribution combine to make this area a very appealing target for maritime narcotics traffickers.

The Coast Guard's maritime law enforcement strategy in New England has been built around random cutter and aircraft patrols, an aggressive boarding program, and development of intelligence to the fullest.

Perhaps the most heartening aspect of the maritime narcotics interdiction effort in New England has been the unprecedented level of cooperation and intelligence exchange between law enforcement agencies.

Sixty-five through seventy percent of Coast Guard patrol boats spend time in law enforcement patrol.

I am pleased with the level of support we have received from the Navy.

The key to our success is getting accurate, timely intelligence. We can always use more and better intelligence.

The Intelligence Coordination Center of the Coast Guard is getting better, but we are not there yet.

This concluded the testimony on Friday, September 20, 1985. The Committee's lead-off witness of Saturday, September 21, 1985, was Boston Mayor, Raymond Flynn.

Some points made by Mayor Flynn were:

Although the police can't solve the drug problem alone, there has been a significant increase in drug arrests by the Boston Police Department in a short period of time.

The City of Boston is trying to enact legislation that would impose severe penalties on drug traffickers who use children as lookouts or runners.

The Boston Police Commissioner has increased the drug control unit significantly. In 1982, this unit had six people, as of November 1, 1985, 58 people will be assigned to this unit.

Drug arrests have increased 65% in the last eighteen months.

We are happy the Select Committee is here in Boston, it has given us a chance to talk to top officials about drug abuse.

State drug abuse funds for the City of Boston have increased from $8 million to $13 million. We are taking money from our operating budget to fight drug abuse.

Legislation is pending before the Massachusetts House and Senate which would impose a minimum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a fine of up to $250,000 on drug traffickers who use kids as runners, and give protection to children who testify against drug dealers.

Boston public schools are implementing a curriculum on drug and alcohol abuse.

Sports figures, such as Robert Parish of the Boston Celtics, have helped us in our campaign against drug abuse.

One way to reduce drug abuse is to keep the schools open into the evening as community centers.

I have seen a gradual erosion of money coming into our local government to fight drug abuse, which has created a need to shift resources and provide services with dwindling resources.

It would be easy to arrest drug runners, but this would not solve the problem. We must make the penalties so severe that people will be deterred from drug trafficking.

There is widespread political support for the legislation which would impose prison sentences and severe fines on drug traffickers who use kids as runners.

Parents groups are becoming more willing to get involved to fight drugs.

Some points made by Mr. Thomas Salmon, Director, Massachusetts Division of Drug Rehabilitation, were:

I am heartened by recognition of the drug problem, but necessary resources to fight drug abuse must be forthcoming.

Implementation of the block grant in 1982, meant a 25% to 30% reduction for drug abuse services in Massachusetts.

In FY 1982 the Federal Government contributed 55% of the State's drug abuse budget, or $4.8 million. Meantime the State's share of drug abuse treatment budget increased from $4 million in FY 1982 to $7.2 million in FY 1986.

Services for Hispanics, women, and adolescents have been improved.

Treatment facilities are operating at full capacity and have waiting lists. Ambulatory services have a 90% utilization rate in Massachusetts which indicates a need exists for additional drug abuse treatment services.

Some points made by Mrs. Geraldine Sylvester, Director, New Hampshire Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention were:

Drug abuse in New Hampshire is as bad as it is anywhere in the U.S.

Law enforcement people in New Hampshire are swimming against the tide.

Millions of dollars have been spent to curtail the supply of drugs, but too little has been spent to curb demand for drugs.

We must stress drug abuse prevention in the schools.

We need to provide training to substance abuse professionals.

Cocaine has jumped from sixth to second place in popularity in New Hampshire.

We need in every school in the U.S. a comprehensive drug education program as part of the school curriculum or else we will never reduce the demand for drugs.

Some points made by Mr. William Pimentel, Assistant Director, Rhode Island Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Hospitals, Division of Substance Abuse, were:

There is no funded drug abuse curriculum in Rhode Island schools.

There has been a 66% increase in the demand for treatment services between 1978 and 1983.

We are seeing more young people more severely involved with drugs.

We are seeing an enormous increase in use of cocaine.

Forty percent of drug abusers in treatment are polydrug abusers.

We are beginning to see some increase in heroin demand in Rhode Island.

The start of the block grant led to a 25% reduction in funds and a 10% reduction in services.

The key to drug rehabilitation is in the reimbursement for services.

Current funding levels for drug and alcohol treatment services are inadequate and need to be increased.

Some points made by Mr. Jack Pransky, Substance Abuse Prevention Program Specialist, Vermont Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, were:

Unless more is done in drug prevention we will always be fighting a losing battle.

The Vermont legislature passed Act 51 which mandates a drug and alcohol education program in grades K–12 by the end of the 1985–1986 school year.

Schools must have a policy developed for students suffering in distress.

There has never been enough funds to show Statewide improvement in drug abuse, this must be changed.

Some points made by Mr. Nathaniel Askia, Executive Director, F.I.R.S.T., Inc., Dorchester, Massachusetts, were:

As treatment professionals we must attack drug abuse at its roots in the community.

An unprecedented amount of attention has been focused by the media on drug abuse, but little community support has followed the media attention.

The "Drop-A-Dime" programs brought public attention on gang drug warfare.

We get a better return on our investment when we attack drug abuse at the local level, not by drug interdiction at the border.

If we can keep identifying local distributors, then we can disrupt the drug abuse chain.

The Federal Government has been driving drug abuse treatment programs out of business. Non-profit organizations must now pay social security taxes on their employees, which drove many of them out of business.

The second largest drug abuse treatment program in Boston, the Third Nail, had to close down when they were required to pay social security taxes.

F.I.R.S.T. is now treating many more people, but with no more money.

Massachusetts and New England have a severe shortage of drug abuse treatment services.

The existence of proprietary drug treatment agencies makes it harder for non-profit firms to get money.

The requirement of placing three months operating funds in reserve can not be met by non-profit drug treatment centers.

F.I.R.S.T. was established in 1968.

During the past 10 years, the cost of living has nearly doubled but, during the same period of time, funding for drug treatment services, has risen by not more than 30 percent.

Because of low pay, it is very hard to retain trained, qualified drug abuse counsellors.

Children involved in drug trafficking must be taken off the street.

I support increased funding for residential treatment centers.

Some points made by Mr. Locksley Bryan, Chairman, F.I.R.S.T. Inc., were:

New England is a major distribution center for heroin cocaine, and marijuana.

Government efforts directed toward enforcement and treatment have been misdirected. The key is to break up the drug abuse network. We can get better intelligence in the community than DEA can ever obtain.

Counsellors will stay with us for three years and then leave because of low pay. Beginning counsellors earn $13,000 a year.

The average length of stay for individuals in F.I.R.S.T.'s residential treatment program is 18 months to 2 years, and these clients remain drug-free during this time.

Some points made by Mr. William J. Hartigan, Vice President, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Division, the Mediplex Group, Inc., Newton, Massachusetts, and President, Alcohol and Drug Problems Association of North America, were:

Drug abuse is America's number one problem, and leadership must come from the Federal Government to deal with it.

Cocaine use is spread throughout all socio-economic levels.

Media coverage of cocaine use, escalates use of cocaine.

The age of first use of drugs for people in treatment is from 5 years to 15 years of age.

The average length of time from first use of cocaine until entry into a treatment program is eighteen months.

A continuum of care for outpatients addicted to cocaine is not available.

The impact of cocaine use on the workforce is significant, and a policy to deal with this problem must be developed by the Federal Government.

We admit a lot of 15 and 16 years olds to treatment with a 3 to 5 year history of drug use.

Many school counsellors can't recognize the signs of chemical dependency for children age 13–15.

Seventy percent of suicides, violence, and accidents suffered by people age 15 to 24 are related to substance abuse, including alcohol.

By passing the block grant program the Federal Government abrogated its responsibility in the substance abuse field. The policy-making role of Washington on substance abuse must be reestablished.

Some points made by Mr. David Mactas, Executive Director, Marathon House, Providence, Rhode Island, and President, Therapeutic Communities of America, were:

Marathon House was founded in 1967 and Therapeutic Communities of America was founded in 1975.

Marathon House stresses self-help in treating drug abuse.

Drug abuse treatment works.

I support residential treatment programs and hospice care for people with AIDS.

With all the money we spend on drug interdiction, we only interdict 15% of the drugs, which leads to a sense of futility.

The first line of defense against drug abuse are the private non-profit centers.

H.R. 526 is a great piece of legislation for which there have been no hearings.

You should close bad drug abuse treatment programs we invite scrutiny.

I support passage of designer drug legislation and oppose use of heroin to treat intractable pain.

The message of the Reagan Administration is that if you are indigent, and a minority group member, who cares.

Proprietary drug treatment centers will make a living and good treatment centers will survive with existing resources if H.R. 526 does not pass.

The utilization rate for treatment programs in Massachusetts is 124%.

Some points made by Thomas Kosten, M.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, and Associate Director, Substance Abuse Treatment Unit, Yale University, were:

Community sites in Connecticut to treat the State's 8,000 drug abusers are greatly needed.

The Government needs to deal with AIDS, one million Americans are carrying the AIDS virus.

There are waiting lists for drug abuse treatment in Connecticut.

It costs $70 per week to treat a drug abuser in a community treatment center in Connecticut.

Some points made by Mr. Otto Moulton, Member Board of Directors, National Federation of Parents For Drug-Free Youth; were:

Drug paraphernalia was a $3 billion business in 1981. Forty States now outlaw "head shops" (paraphernalia sales shops).

There is no expert on the U.S. drug culture.

Ignorance is our biggest problem, and education is the answer to this.

Much misinformation about drug abuse has been generated by NIDA.

The researchers who work at NIDA work for the drug industry.

A researcher at UCLA is working on a marijuana chewing gum.

An article in the 1984 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica on marijuana was based on 1969 data.

Some points made by Ms. Georgette Watson, Founder, "Drop-A-Dime" Program, Roxbury, Massachusetts, were:

The "Drop-A-Dime" program is an anonymous tipline on drugs whereby people can give tips on drug use in their community.

Information from the hotline is given to 14 different agencies including the Boston Police Department.

The $3,000 annual operating budget of the "Drop-A-Dime" is paid by myself.

Some points made by Mr. Matt Green, Newton, Massachusetts, School Department, Newton Youth Drug/Alcohol Program, were:

This program meets the needs of forty adolescents.

Students referred to this program by school officials must participate in it for one year, individuals referred by the courts must participate for the duration of their probation period.

Students must attend meetings in a sober condition.

By the end of our program, students can state a plan for his own future development.

Upon completing our program, students evangelize against the dangers of drug use.

Some points made by Mrs. Joan Green, Matt's mother, were:

Education is vital to solving the problems of drug abuse, when school is the only constant in an adolescent life, and students bring their drug abuse into the school.

Students don't see their drug abuse as problem.

It is impossible to learn when you are not thinking clearly.

Some points made by Mr. Newman Flanagan DA, Suffolk County (Boston) were:

We need more prosecutors, judges, and jail space. Overcrowding should never be used as an excuse for not taking action against someone who should go to jail.

All the arrests in the world can be made, but unless prosecutions are made and done right, we are just spinning our wheels.

Seven years ago a drug bust netted $350,000. Three months ago a $20 million operation did not shock the media.

A drug battle plan utilizing all available resources and Federal and State and local cooperation is needed.

The conviction rate for drug offenses in Suffolk County is over 90%.

I have a good relationship with DEA, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and other Federal law enforcement agencies.

A mutual joining of forces, such as the Boston Heroin Task Force is essential to winning the war on drugs.

Cocaine is rapidly becoming enemy number one in the Boston area.

I support Federal funding of drug abuse education programs for both parents and students.

Police officers should receive more specialized drug training.

I am delighted that money confiscated at the Federal level can drift down to the local level.

Some points made by Mr. Scott Harshbarger DA, Middlesex County (Cambridge) were:

Drugs are now a problem in every community in this State. There is no crime that occurs that is not in some way triggered by drug or alcohol abuse.

White collar individuals with no prior criminal record are now distributing cocaine.

I support mandatory sentences for drug offenders.

A new element in the war against drugs is the link between high tech computer rings and narcotics.

The need to finance narcotics purchases has been a factor in the stealing of computers and computer parts.

Parents' nights to discuss drug and alcohol use by children have been incredibly poorly attended. (SCNAC has found this nationwide)

Cocaine is the recreational drug of choice at this point.

We must undertake a major attitudinal change on alcohol and drug abuse, it will be a generational change.

Some points made by Mr. Ronald A. Pina, DA Bristol County (New Bedford) were:

Thirty-four organizations participate in the Southeastern Massachusetts Task Force, which in two years has seized $85 million worth of drugs.

Eighty-three percent of the felony crimes in my district are drug-related.

The influx of drugs is so large it is very hard to stop.

Because cocaine is a white powdery substance, it is very easy to conceal.

The fact that the Coast Guard can board boats for safety reasons is a great advantage.

Organized crime families in New England are now becoming involved in the cocaine trade.

To curtail drug abuse we need more involvement by the U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and IRS.

While I have had excellent relationships with Customs, Coast Guard, and DEA, I have had jurisdictional disputes with the FBI.

Sometimes agency efforts duplicate one another.

Some points made by Mr. Kevin Burke, DA Essex County (Lynn) were:

Massachusetts DAs are in the forefront of drug enforcement policies.

The effect of drugs on the quality of life should be a significant part of your discussions.

Because fewer people use heroin than use cocaine or marijuana, there are less people involved in the distribution of it.

The relationship between property crimes and cocaine is increasing.

More cocaine is coming into the port of New Bedford, Massachusetts, because of the efforts of the South Florida Task Force.

Eighty percent of drugs shipped to the U.S. reach our streets with devastating consequences.

Large scale drug arrests have only had a temporary effect on curtailing the drug traffic.

Attempts to penetrate the higher echelons of drug distribution rings has consistently had little effect, so the task force in Lynn, Massachusetts was established to go after firstline drug dealers and buyers.

Visible, constant enforcement pressure was applied to take back our neighborhoods, and the immediate result was a dramatic decline in drug trafficking.

From November 1983 to June 1984, burglaries were down 41%, robberies were down 35%, after the Lynn Task Force was formed.

After the formation of the Lynn Task Force the demand for treatment services went up, so some of the drug dealing was eliminated.

We are aware of our limited resources, so we don't try to compete with Federal law enforcement agencies.

Street level enforcement affects the number of dealers and the openness with which they deal.

The National Institute of Justice is conducting a study of increased policy activity against narcotics in Lawrence, Mass.

The Committee should look closely at the volume of street level enforcement.

Drug education of elementary students is the ultimate answer to drug abuse.

Some points made by Mr. Philip Rollins, Barnstable County (Falmouth) DA, were:

The key to the success of the task forces is the Federal involvement.

In the summer of 1983, we were asked not to send offenders to prison, so that beds could open up.

Wiretaps and storage of drugs are very expensive.

Accountants should be made available to the Cape and Islands Task Force on a full-time basis.

Training and sharing of undercover agents by the Federal Government is necessary.

Some points made by Mr. Anthony Roberto, Berkshire County (Springfield) DA, were:

In Western Massachusetts, cocaine is the number one law enforcement problem.

Marijuana use is so prevalent that it is ingrained into our society.

We are losing the war against drugs in Massachusetts, because our laws are inadequate. A person receives the same penalty for possession of 49 pounds of marijuana, as he does for driving under the influence.

Education is the ultimate answer to the problem of drug abuse, with continued law enforcement emphasis.

Two and a half years ago the Massachusetts State Police Drug Task Force was decentralized to the various Massachusetts DAs offices.

It is very difficult to do narcotics enforcement in Berkshire County.

While local faces change, the "big boys" don't change in drug distribution.

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